JOIN THE ALLIANCE!

we're so glad you're here!

Out and About
CMU'S LGBTQIA+ FACULTY AND STAFF ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

THE PRIDE ISSUE!!!

Pride Parades 2024

2024 Alliance Luncheon

Keynotes

We have ideas for our events and newsletter, but we'd like to hear your ideas too!

Got an idea? Something you'd like to include in an issue? Hit us up!
On June 1, 2024, the LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Alliance, in collaboration with various CMU queer organizations and groups, participated in the Pittsburgh Pride Parade and March. The event was a resounding success, boasting the largest turnout ever at a Pittsburgh Pride event and enjoying nearly perfect weather.

We started our walk at 11th Street on Liberty Avenue, proceeded along 7th Street, crossed the Andy Warhol Bridge, and continued into Allegheny Commons Park West for the Pittsburgh Pride Festival.

If you were unable to join us this year, we’d love to have you share this experience with us next year for Pride 2025!
The Alliance held its yearly members' luncheon on June 25, 2024. The gathering was well-attended, featured delicious food, fostered camaraderie, and included a farewell to the current co-lead, Ryan McKelvey, as he concludes his leadership time with the Alliance. We also welcomed our new co-lead, Ashley Werlinich, who will be formally introduced in the upcoming newsletter.
The CMU Juneteenth Keynote was delivered by Dr. Edda L. Fields-Black, an associate professor of history in CMU’s Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She specializes in the transnational histories of West African rice farmers, the African diaspora, and enslaved laborers on Lowcountry rice plantations. During her Juneteenth lecture, Dr. Fields-Black delved into Tubman’s pivotal role in the Combahee River Raid, highlighting the intelligence she gathered and the network of spies, scouts, and pilots she coordinated. This raid stands out as one of the most significant events of the Civil War and marks the largest and most successful slave rebellion in U.S. history.

CMU held its annual Pride Keynote on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The event featured Rabbi Sandra Lawson, a pioneering African American, queer, female rabbi renowned for addressing challenging issues related to Jews and race. Her presentation titled “Black, Jewish & Queer: Building Bridges Across Identities & Communities” delved deeply into the concept of intersectionality. Sometimes Rabbi Sandra is referred to as the Snapchat Rabbi and the “TikTok Rabbi”. She was featured in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) as one of The 50 Jews everyone should follow on Twitter. So if you missed her talk, you can learn more about her on her very active social media.

Communion is a mutual participation. It’s a common union, a communal one: a breaking of bread, an embrace, an actual depth of self shared. Even if only momentary, the impression one makes on one is always, forever. Feminist writer and independent scholar Sara Ahmed wrote, “The work of repetition is not neutral work; it orients the body in some ways rather than others.”

A new job at Carnegie Mellon University in April 2022 came with new opportunities for community and engagement while at work. I am happy to have joined the ERG as co-lead these last two years and will continue to be an active member. My guidance and support to Lina and Ashley as they take on leadership of the group. I know they already are planning diverse and inclusive programming for our members——-I’m excited!

Remember though, the group is by us, for us; so, let’s make the most of the years ahead and get involved with each other in bringing more awareness, community, and visibility to our campus for our fellow colleagues. Let us orient ourselves away from dominance and tradition. Let us queerly make our own impressions.

~Ryan M. McKelvey, Co-Lead 2022-24
On September 7, we have an LGBTQIA+ Faculty and Staff Alliance team walking in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention walk at Highmark Stadium. You can sign up with the team and come walk with us! Go here for information and to sign up:

AFSP CMU LGBTQIA+ ERG Team

August 20, ERG meeting

The fall semester is approaching fast! As we prepare for the new school year, our 2024-25 ERG journey will kick off with our monthly meeting. Exciting news - we welcome Ashley Werlinich as our new co-lead. Stay tuned for more details on the 2024-25 leadership in our upcoming newsletter.

Out with the old, in with the new!

We have exciting plans for the upcoming year! During the September meeting, we will delve into our upcoming programming ideas and plans for the next year.

The LGBTQIA+ Faculty & Staff Alliance will host the Winter Necessity Drive

The CMU ERGs host a Winter Necessity drive annually, collecting winter clothing and essential items for local assistance organizations. Details about the event and donation acceptance will be announced soon.

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This Fall, a new Employee Resource Group called the Disability Faculty and Staff Alliance will be launched. Explore all of the CMU Employee Resource Groups!

Q Writers Roundtable is a space for LGBTQ2IA+ writers to support each other, share experiences, and connect. Writers of all genres are welcome to join the community.

Queer Craft Night is a safe space for introverts and extroverts alike! It’s a time to co-create, collaborate, and celebrate! Bring in what you are working on or try something new!

In addition to our sewing machines, 3D printer, cricut and laser cutters, you’ll have access to all our craft supplies, as well as the expertise of our fabulous Assemble staff!

For July’s QCN, we’ll be making stickers!

Disability Pride Pittsburgh is a momentous occasion dedicated to fostering a sense of pride and unity within our community. This inclusive event features a celebratory parade and day-long celebration in Schenley Plaza, showcasing the beauty of diversity and challenging societal perceptions of disability. A day to celebrate the disability experience with live performances by disabled artists, FUN accessible activities, arts, food trucks, great resources, giveaways, guest speakers, and COMMUNITY.

PGH LBGTQIA+ Resources
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